GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:467
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA AND UK
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently signed civil aviation agreements/MoUs with China and UK;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the extent to which these agreements are likely to be helpful as far as India is concerned;

(d) whether any talks have been held with the European countries for increasing the flight operations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 467 for reply on 28.04.2005 regarding Air Service Agreements with China and UK.

(a), (b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. As part of the on-going process to review traffic rights, bilateral air services consultations have recently been held with China and UK. In pursuance to these discussions, an MOU was signed with China on 11.4.2005 providing for gradual increase in entitlements for operation of air services between the two countries to 14 services per week with immediate effect and to 42 services per week by summer 2006. Designated airlines of either country have also been permitted to operate to any six destinations in the territory of the other country.

As regards UK, entitlements on India-UK sector will go up to 56 services/week on Delhi/Mumbai - London Heathrow route by winter season 2006. The increase in entitlements on these routes will be as follows:-

(i) Winter, 2005 42 weekly services

(ii) Summer, 2006 49 weekly services

(iii) Winter, 2006 56 weekly services

As regards other routes, from the beginning of Winter 2005 the designated airlines of India may operate without any capacity limit between India and UK. The designated airlines of UK may also operate on all other routes to India except Heathrow/Delhi and Heathrow/Mumbai subject to a total capacity limit of 7-services/week to/from each airport in India, except that in the cases of Bangalore and Chennai, the total capacity limit will be increased to 14 services/week each from the beginning of Summer, 2006. All these services may be operated with 5th freedom rights to/from intermediate and beyond points.

The revised arrangements with China have been entered into in the backdrop of significant growth in trade between the two countries paving way for adequate direct connectivity. The enhancement in entitlements on India-UK sector will also remove the constraint on direct connectivity and enable the passengers to travel directly instead through a 3rd country. This will also provide an opportunity to the Indian carriers to optimally use the commercial opportunities on this sector.

(d) & (e) : Among the European Countries, bilateral talks have been held with France recently besides UK. It has been decided to enhance entitlements to 35 weekly flights from 14 weekly flights and to amend the existing agreement to provide for designation of multiple airlines. Airlines of France have also been permitted to operate to Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad in addition to Delhi,

Mumbai and Kolkata. Reciprocally the Indian carriers have been permitted to operate to New York, Montreal, Toronto and 4 new points in North America via France.